37 केस और उसके पहले वर्ष अर्थात् 2000-2001 में केवल 38 मामले [illegible] के ख्याल में आए हैं। जब ऐसे मामले ख्याल में आए तो इसमें कुछ जगहों पर डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर्स का भी दोष कुछ ख्याल में आया है, ऐसे चार केस हैं, डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर्स की जो गलती [illegible] 27 केस हैं। राज्य सरकार के एक्शन लेने के बाद 10 केस ख्याल में आए हैं। मैं [illegible] ऐसा होता है तो दो प्रकार की बातें होती हैं, एक तो उनको फाइन किया जाता [illegible] होगा तो 20 हजार रुपए, फिर दूसरी दफा है तो 50 हजार रुपए और तीसरी दफा [illegible] टर्मिनेशन होता है। दूसरा, डीलर और [illegible] का एग्रीमेंट है, उसके तहत भी [illegible] जाती है। तीसरी बात, असेन्सियल कमोडिटीज एक्ट के तहत भी कार्रवाई होती है, जिसमें तीन महीने से लेकर सात वर्ष तक की सजा भी हो सकती है।

श्रीमती सविता शारदा : सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहती हूँ, जैसा इन्होंने प्रश्न के उत्तर के क्रमांक 3 पर विवरण प्रस्तुत किया है, तो इसमें कितने लोग दोषी पाए गए हैं और कितने लोगों को सस्पेंड किया गया है ? सरकार द्वारा रसोई गैस में मिलावट से उत्पन्न होने वाले मुद्दों की समीक्षा के लिए एक मिलावट-रोधी प्रकोष्ठ का जो गठन किया गया था, क्या उसने अपनी कोई रिपोर्ट सरकार को प्रस्तुत की है ? अगर की है तो उसमें क्या सिफारिशें हैं ? और, अगर नहीं की है तो कब तक प्रस्तुत होने की संभावना है ? मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह भी पूछना चाहती हूँ कि . . .

श्री सभापति : नहीं। आपने बहुत पूछ लिया।

श्रीमती सविता शारदा : सर, छोटा सा है, कि अभी पूरे भारतवर्ष में ग्राहकों की संख्या कितनी है और कितने डीलर पूरे भारतवर्ष में हैं ?

श्री राम नाईक : सभापति जी, इस समय सारे हिन्दुस्तान में एलपीजी के 7887 डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर हैं। मुझे यह बताते हुए प्रसन्नता है कि इस समय देश भर में हमारे सात करोड़ से अधिक एलपीजी कनेक्शन हो गए हैं। देश की 38 परसेंट आबादी को एलपीजी उनके घर में दे रहे हैं। वर्ष 1999 में केवल 15 से 17 परसेंट आबादी इसमें आती थी, पिछले चार वर्षों में हमने इसमें बड़ी मंजिल पाई है और जो 31 मार्च, 1999 को 3 करोड़ 81 लाख लोग इसमें कवर होते थे, वह अब 31 मार्च, 2003 को 7 करोड़ से ऊपर की संख्या पर हम गए हैं।

श्रीमती सविता शारदा : सर, मेरे तीसरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं मिला।

श्री सभापति : नहीं। अब हो गया।

SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ : Mr. Chairman, Sir, last year, the hon. Minister had said that it was a fact that in the rural areas the supply of LPG was very less considering the supply in urban areas. He had also assured that, hence forth, much attention would be given to increase the supply of

LPG in rural areas. So, what arrangements have been made by the Government in that respect?

श्री राम नाईक : सर, गए दो साल में हमने लगभग 1,300 एजेंसीज ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में दी हैं और हमारा यह प्रयास है कि ब्लॉक लैवल पर कम से कम एक एजेंसी होनी चाहिए।

सभापति जी, पहले प्रश्न में मैं एक बात और बताना भूल गया था और वह यह है कि सात करोड़ की संख्या हो गई है और इस समय तक पूरी दुनिया में सबसे ज्यादा डोमेस्टिक कंज्यूमर भारत में हैं। यह संख्या दुनिया में सबसे बड़ी है। इस प्रकार का काम हो रहा है।

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR : Supplying gas by cylinder is neither efficient nor theft-proof. Sir, since last five years, the GAIL has a pilot project called "Indraprastha Gas Limited" to supply gas through pipelines to 1300 households. My question is : Will the Minister state the results of that project; and what are the plans to extend the pipeline to other parts?

श्री राम नाईक : सभापति जी, हालांकि इस प्रश्न का मूल प्रश्न से कोई संबंध नहीं है, लेकिन मैं फिर भी बताना चाहता हूँ कि दिल्ली में सीएनजी डोमेस्टिक यूज के लिए पाइपलाइन के जरिए देने का काम चल रहा है। बीच में चूंकि यह कहा गया कि वाहनों के लिए प्राथमिकता दी जानी चाहिए, इसलिए पहले यह वाहनों को दी जा रही है। अभी जैसा देखने में आ रहा है कि अब वाहनों के लिए सीएनजी की पहले जैसी क्यू नहीं दिखाई पड़ रही है, इसलिए यह काम पूरा होने के बाद जब अतिरिक्त गैस प्राप्त होगी तब यह घरों में अधिक संख्या में दी जाएगी।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now; next Question. Question No. 542.

श्री सतीश प्रधान : सर, प्रश्न संख्या 542, 543, 549, ये सब नदियों को जोड़ने के बारे में हैं इसलिए इन्हें आप क्लब कर सकते हैं।

श्री सभापति : मंत्री जी, आप सबका जबाव दे देंगे क्या?

श्री अर्जुन चरण सेठी : यस सर।

श्री सभापति : जिन्होंने पूछना है उनको तो आपत्ति नहीं है।

श्री सतीश प्रधान : 545 भी थोड़ा वैसा ही है, थोड़ा गुजरात से संबंधित है।

.....(**व्यवधान**).....

श्री सभापति : चलिए, एक-एक प्रश्न का जबाव दीजिए।

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Sir, with regard to Question No. 542, for parts (a) and (b), a statement is laid on the Table of the House. Then, regarding the question No. . . . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should reply only to Question No. 542.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Sir, I shall have to reply to all the three questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No; only 542. . . . *(Interruptions)* . . . .

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, Question No. 542 is different from the Question No. 543.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes; yes; Question No. 542.

Water Treaty Between China and India

*542. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the need for a Water Treaty between China and India on the lines of Indus Water Treaty before the Task Force starts plans for linking the Indian rivers; and

(b) if so, whether Government are seriously thinking of any such Treaty ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI) : (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Water Treaty Between China and India

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Water Resources, then known as Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development in 1980 which envisages inter linkages among rivers for transferring flood waters from water surplus basins to water deficit areas for optimum utilisation of water resources. The Himalayan Component of National Perspective Plan involves some link projects which require cooperation of Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. Presently, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government for any such water Treaty with China in this regard.

श्री विजय जे० दर्डा : सभापति जी, आपके माध्यम से मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि हमारी तीन मेजर नदियां, ब्रह्मपुत्र, सतलुज और इंडस, तिब्बत से ओरिजिनेट होती हैं, चाइनीज़ गवर्नमेंट किसी भी स्ट्रेटेजिक कंसिडरेशन के तहत या और किसी कारणवश अगर हमारी नदियों का बहाव बदल देती है तो ऐसी परिस्थिति में हमने इस इवेंच्युएलिटी को फेस करने के लिए कोई प्रोग्राम बनाया है या बिना चाइनीज़ ट्रीटी के हम लोग इसको पूरी तरह से पूरा कर सकते हैं ?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Sir, so far as having a Treaty with China for exploitation of water of the Brahamaputra river is concerned, I would like to say that there is no need to have any Treaty with China, because the catchment area of river Brahamaputra is quite large,and if any kind of dam is constructed by China,

that won't affect the availability of water that is there inside our country, because we have enough precipitation in between the borders of China and our country.

श्री विजय जे. दर्डा : क्योंकि इनका ओरिजिन तिब्बत से होता है और तिब्बत चाइना के क्षेत्र में है, ऐसी परिस्थिति में जो कुछ भी आप स्ट्रेटेजिक प्रोग्राम बना रहे हों, वह चेंज हो सकता है क्या ?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Sir, our country is situated on the down-stream of the Brahamaputra river, and China is on the upstream. That won't affect, in any way, our country's interest. If the Chinese Government constructs any dam on the upstream, that won't affect anything in our country.

SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the linkage of the Brahamaputra river with the Ganga river would cause more harm to the Brahamaputra Valley during the rainy season. I am saying it because by blocking the flowing down of water, it may create severe harm than at present. That is my question. And, secondly, Sir, the Minister has said that without having any water treaty, the Government can do everything in the downstream. But, I think, it is not like this. It is necessary to have a Treaty in this regard.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Sir, the hon. Member expressed an apprehension that the transfer of water from the Brahamaputra river to the Ganga river would affect the State of Assam more severely. But, I think, the whole thing is being studied by the Task Force; and certainly the Government of Assam will be taken into confidence before putting up this kind of mega project into operation in our county.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shrimati Ambika Soni. She is not present.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very important question.

श्री सभापति : आप क्वेश्चन पूछ रहे हैं तो इम्पोर्टेंट ही होगा।

Inter-linking of Rivers by NWDA

*543. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :††

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Water Development agency has completed the pre-feasibility reports of the links;

(b) if so, whether the pre-feasibility reports of all the 30 possible links, 16 under the peninsular component and 14 under the Himalayan component, had been completed;

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††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

(c) by when all the detailed project reports will be prepared;

(d) at what stage the project is at present;

(e) whether the project will be completed as per schedule; and

(f) by when implementation of the project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARN SETHI) : (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Inter-Linking of Rivers by NWDA

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Detailed Project Report are scheduled for completion by 31-12-2006.

(d) The project is at feasibility stage at present. National Water Development agency has completed feasibility reports of 8 links.

(e) and (f) Implementation and Scheduled completion of the project depends on various important issues such as cooperation from all the concerned States as well as from neighbouring Countries particularly. Nepal and Bhutan and availability of funds.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : The question deals with drought and flood. So, it is very important. In my question, I asked for 30 Links. But you have given reply that eight links are ready. What are the stages of balanced links? When will they be completed? In your reply, you have said that detailed project report will be completed by 2006. Is it not possible to complete it in advance in the interest of water resources linking in the country?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Sir, the time-table has been drawn up by the Ministry of water Resources and it is now before the Task Force. The pre-feasibility study has been completed so far as 30 links are concerned. But the feasibility report has been completed with regard to eight links only. After feasibility study, we shall have a detailed feasibility report. For that purpose, the time-table has been drawn up. That feasibility report is in progress with regard to 16 links and a detailed feasibility project report will be [illegible] by 31-12-2006.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Linking of water resources involves not only our Government, but it is also linked with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh Governments. It also requires availability of funds. Through you, I request the Government to give it a top priority. Besides the Minister of Water Resources, the Finance Minister must also give some time to this subject. How will the funds be raised—through ADB, World Bank or some other agency? The Ministry of External Affairs must work out with Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan for their cooperation.

The hon. Minister said in his reply that implementation depends on various important issues such as cooperation with concerned states and countries. Is the Government working towards this?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : We are making all out efforts to make this mega project successful. Whatever suggestions have been made by hon. Members, I will certainly consider and make them effective.

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA : Will the Government come forward to include completion of the first series of link between the Mahanadi and the Cauvery rivers and another link between west flowing Pamba Achankoil link to Vaippar providing a lifetime support to an arid zone in Tamil Nadu in the Tenth Plan period?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : All these links are included in the 30 links. These links will be effected, the moment feasibility and detailed feasibility studies are made ...*(Interruptions)* ....

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has consulted the concerned states before taking up this mega project?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Yes, I have already stated on the floor of this House, more than one, that before acting upon this mega project, we will take everybody into confidence; every State and every interested water experts will be consulted.

SHRI N.R. DASARI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very important issue, and I would request you to allow Half-an-Hour discussion on this subject I hope the Minister will also agree to my suggestion.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY : Sir, since most of the States in the southern part of the country are facing severe drought, year after year, I would like to know one thing from the hon. Minister. Out of these 30 links, 8 links are said to be feasible. What exactly is the estimated cost of these projects? Have you made any cost effective study in this regard? According to the answer given by the hon. Minister, the report will be ready by 31-12-2006. I would like to know whether, in view of the severe drought being faced by the Southern States, the Government proposes to take necessary steps to quicken the process.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Sir, in order to mitigate the sufferings caused by floods and drought in the country, these projects have been designed. We will be sparing no effort to make them operational very soon; and I will certainly take into consideration the suggestion made by the hon. Member in this regard.

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक : श्रीमन्, अभी कुछ दिन पहले सरकार ने घोषित किया था कि माननीय सुरेश प्रभु की अध्यक्षता में एक कमेटी का गठन इस संदर्भ में किया गया है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि माननीय सुरेश प्रभु जी की अध्यक्षता में जो कमेटी गठित की गई है उसके टर्म्स ऑफ रिफरेंस क्या हैं और उसकी जांच या उसके संबंध में जो जानकारी उससे मांगी गई है उसकी प्रगति क्या है ?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Sir, I would like to read out the terms of reference of the Task Force because it is a detailed one.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You send a copy to him.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : All right, Sir.

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक : श्रीमन्, यह तो बतला दें कि मुख्य रूप से उसके क्या टर्म्स ऑफ रिफरेंस हैं ?

श्री सभापति : सब हैं उसमें, मुख्य मुद्दे भी लिखे हैं।

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक : जिस बात की संभावनाएं माननीय मंत्री जी ने व्यक्त की हैं उसकी रिपोर्ट अलग है और इस समिति का गठन अलग है। इसलिए मैं जानना चाहता था कि यह जो गठन किया गया है उसका क्या मकसद है और उसका मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है ?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Sir, under the Chairmanship of the hon. member, Shri Suresh Prabhu, this Task Force has been constituted, and the terms of reference of this particular Task Force are as follows :—

To provide guidance on norms of appraisal of individual project in respect of economic viability, socio-economic impact, environmental impact and preparation of resettlement plans;

to devise suitable mechanism for bringing about speedy consensus amongst the states;

to priorities the different project components for preparation of detailed project reports and implementation;

to propose suitable organizational structure for implementing the project; and

consider various modalities for project funding and consider international dimensions that may be involved in some project components.

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक : इसकी रिपोर्ट कब तक आएगी ?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Sir, as I have stated earlier, the detailed project report will be available by 2006.

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक : वह तो दूसरी कमेटी की रिपोर्ट की बात कही है आपने, इसकी थोड़ी कही है।

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Sir, this is the Committee, which is going into the details of the project, and its report will be made available to the State Government by 2006.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : Sir, in the past also, we had seen in this country that big plans were made and a lot of money was spent, and then after proceeding to a certain extent, we found that the entire project was unviable. So, in 2006, if the entire project is found unviable, how much money would have been spent by then on this project ? Have you any projection because we are a resource scarce country ?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Sir, there is a National Water Development Agency constituted under the Societies Act. This has been set up in the year 1982 and has been working since then. And this particular organization has studied it and prepared pre-feasibility reports. To expedite the process of a task force....

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : No, Mr. Minister, just answer the question. You may please see the record of the Brahmaputra Board. They have prepared a project for producing 80,000 megawatts of electricity, and they have a detailed project report to the tune of 30,000 megawatts. So much of money has gone into the production of these reports, and ultimately, we do not have any funding linkage for implementing that. Similarly, this is such an ambitious project and we understand the kind of dislocation that will be there, both in terms of human settlement as well as ecology. You may please give me a projection of the amount of money that is going to be spent up to the year 2006 for preparation of the report.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is imaginary. I think it is very difficult for the Minister to reply.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : But this is the way we waste our scarce resources, Sir. अगर कोई फाइनेंसिंग प्लान नहीं है तो कैसे प्रोजेक्ट प्रिपेयर करेंगे ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay. Dr. Karan Singh.

DR. KARAN SINGH : Mr. Chairman Sir, I am constrained to strike a somewhat discordant note. Although the project appears to be a very grandiose and a very ambitious one, environmentalists in this country are deeply concerned and deeply disturbed that such a project, which is going to involve unbelievable environmental changes and human dislocation, has been accepted almost without a full debate. Will the hon. Minister assure the House that before he proceeds with such a gigantic project with all its implications, financial, ecological

and human, he will have a full-fledged debate; he will call environmentalists who are deeply concerned, talk with them, and then go ahead ? You are giving the impression that the project is going to be accepted regardless of anything. I think you should clarify this point.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Sir, I would like to make one correction here. The Action Plan-I for this project, will be completed by April, 2003, and Action Plan-II will be completed by July, 2003.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : But, unless the overall project is finalised, how can the Action Plans be finalised ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him speak.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Sir, let me answer the point the esteemed Member, Dr. Karan Singh has made. This particular task force has been appointed to go into the details of each and every aspect of the problem, ecological, environmental and sociological, etc. They will be going into every problem and moreover, whenever they submit the report to the Government, if possible it will be discussed on the floor of the House.

श्री नीलोत्पल बसु : सर, आपको हमें प्रोटैक्ट करना होगा क्योंकि पूरा प्रोजैक्ट अगर इनविसेज़ नहीं किया गया और उसकी वायबिलिटी अगर तय नहीं होगी तो उसके अलग-अलग सब-प्लान्स कैसे तय होंगे ? सर, ऐक्सपीरिएंस यह है कि अलग-अलग रिवर्स के जो वैली प्रोजैक्ट्स हैं जैसे दामोदर वैली प्रोजैक्ट्स इनकम्पलीट है, ब्रह्मपुत्र वैली प्रोजैक्ट इनकम्पलीट है, इससे तो पैसा फिज़ूलखर्च होता है।

श्री सभापति : पैसा खर्च होता है किन्तु अभी टास्क फोर्स की रिपोर्ट आएगी और उस पर गवर्नमेंट अध्ययन करेगी और उसके बाद ही असैसमेंट हो पाएगा।

श्री नीलोत्पल बसु : पूरी वायबिलिटी तय नहीं हुई तो 2006 तक कैसे तय हो जाएगा ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 544.

Merger of financial institutions

*544. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering merger of some leading financial institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the financial institutions identified for the proposed merger;

(c) the scope and contours envisaged for the new entity; and

(d) the factors necessitating such a merger ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) No, Sir, not as at present.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, the hon. Minister, in his reply to the question, 'whether it is a fact that Government are considering merger of some leading financial institutions in the country', has said, 'no, not at present'. The hon. Minister of State for Finance made a clear statement at a function of Exim Bank, "A proposal to merge IDBI, IFCI and IIBI was being considered as one of the options. We have to find some way of restructuring the financial institutions." The Minister of State for Finance, Mr. Anandrao Adsul, has confirmed on Friday, that is, in the month of April only Sir. He has talked about "a merger proposal". Here, today, the hon. Finance Minister is stating that there is no such proposal. So, my submission, through you, Sir, is that there is a lot of confusion in the capital market and also in the stock market. Not only that, there is confusion in the minds of the employees also. I would like to know whether the hon. Finance Minister would look at what laudable objectives these financial institutions were set up with; and whether now the financial institutions are making profit.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, there are three separate parts of his question. Did the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance make some such statement ? Yes, he did, Sir. I am not denying that. His question is whether the Government has under consideration a plan for the merger. No, there is no such plan at present. He is giving voice to an expression of opinion, which he, subsequently, corrected also. That is one part.

"Development financial institutions" is an important aspect of the total development activity of the Government, of the country. The hon. Member has worked in the Ministry, has sanctioned, and he knows it very well. Because there are problems in connection with the development financial institutions, the reform of the development financial institutions has been undertaken. It is really so with IDBI, IFCI. Now, these are some of the activities. And the hon. Member also knows that the IDBI Bill is currently under consideration of the Standing Committee of the Ministry of Finance. If I were to be asked as to what are the reasons, why development financial institutions have come to the present position, of course, I can help you, but this is well enough known, we have to have a situation wherein development finances available and the development financial institutions that have run into difficulties are restored to a state of health.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, I appreciate the stand taken by the hon. Finance Minister. He is a responsible Minister and he has been doing very well. But when his Deputy is making a statement and creating a confusion in the minds of the people, it is the collective responsibility, and nobody can go on making statements, thereby affecting the financial institutions' credibility and also the credibility of the entire financial.....*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is over now. He has already replied to your question. That does not matter.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, may I know from the hon. Finance Minister whether it is his case that there will not be any merger ? Forget that there is a Standing Committee. So far as the IDBI is concerned, so far as the merger of other financial institutions is concerned, is it your case that there is no such proposal at all.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Yes, Sir. I have said so because, firstly, so far as taking care in the Ministry of Finance is concerned, to say only that which is authorised, I do take care. Sir, you might have noticed it; in fact, I hardly now meet the Press or give interviews on anything. It is simply because in this particular job it is very difficult to say something and not be misunderstood. So, I assure you I take on board what the hon. Member has said. But as far as the merger of financial institutions is concerned, if the hon. Member is asking whether there is any proposal to merge IDBI with IFCI or any of these things, there is no such proposal.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Pranab Mukherjee. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JIBON ROY : Does it mean that IDBI will be revived ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, the hon. Finance Minister, while replying to the supplementaries of my colleague, has pointed out that the Minister of State who made the statement has later on corrected it, and I do not know whether it is precisely because of the Government's thinking that the Finance Minister does not want to commit himself in any way, using the phrase "not at present". In view of the fact that these developmental financial institutions were established in an atmosphere and environment wherein the public sector enterprises were substantially funded from the budgetary route, and the private corporate sectors depended substantially on these developmental financial institutions. Now when these areas of demarcations are getting blurred more and more, is it not the appropriate time to have a fresh look totally, and instead of just having a piecemeal approach—for

instance, restructuring of the IDBI—I am not going into the merit of the issue right now—is under consideration as the Bill has been introduced—would the Government like to take a holistic view in regard to the major restructuring of the developmental fincancial institutions?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I think it is a very valid question and I take on board what the hon. Pranab Babu has said. I consider all possibilities as necessary to examine so that the synergy or merger is generated for the sake of having viable development financial institutions. Now, as at present, we have IDBI which is under consideration of the Standing Committee on Finance. But, we also have an IDBI bank. There seems to be a certain degree of misunderstanding that IDBI bank will become a retail bank. It is not going to be a retail bank. We do think in the Ministry of Finance that in reality the IDBI bank could provide the kind of nucleus to regenerate a new development financial institution. That is what we are certainly examining, and nothing more, at the present moment. But, I take on board what you say that we have to consider the release of synergy by examining the possibility. And, we will do so at the appropriate time.

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR : Sir, would the hon. Minister of Finance be kind enough to explain, in case there is no proposal for merging two financial institutions is under consideration at the moment, how does the Government then propose to take care of the chronic sickness in premier development institutions like IFCI? Whenever the merger proposals were mooted, they were mooted fundamentally, with a view to providing resilience, and synergy, as the hon. Finance Minister himself has said. So, if merger is not under consideration now, is there any other proposal that is under consideration that would restore the financial health of these development institutions?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Yes, Sir, the first requirement, to my mind—and that is our priority at the moment in the Ministry of Finance—is to eliminate sickness that has really crippled the development financial institutions. In that, IDBI is one and IFCI is another. Having first brought these really now sick institutions to a level of survivable health, if I may put it that way, then only we can consider another option. If I were to merge or think in terms of bringing two sick patients together, I will only be creating the synergy of greater sickness, not of health....*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question no. 545.

Utilization of Sea Water

*545. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for utilization of sea water by the process of Reverse Osmosis Plant for supplying water to Kutch region in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

Utilization of Sea Water

(a) No proposal for utilization of sea water by Reverse Osmosis plant process for supplying water to Kutch region in Gujarat has been received by the Ministry of Water Resources.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, looking at the acute shortage of water in Kutch area of Gujarat, which is surrounded by sea and salty desert, will the Government at least agreed to consider any such process for utilization of sea water, as it is being utilised by United Arab Emirates, Qatar and other countries?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Sir, the reply to the question asked by my hon. friend is: 'No proposal for utilization of sea water by Reverse Osmosis Plant process for supplying water to Kuch region in Gujarat has been received by the Ministry of Water Resources'. And, reply to 'b' and 'c' is: 'Do not arise'. Sir, as far as the question asked by the hon. Member in regard to the projects to utilise the sea water is concerned, in the year 1998, power had been delegated to the States to plan, execute and maintain individual water supply schemes. So, now it is not under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Water Resources or the Government of India. It is upto the States; they are to plan, execute and maintain individual projects, which they deem fit under the scheme.

SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Availability of water must be considered by the Government of India. And, when there is no other source in the Kutch

area, which is surrounded by sea and desert, what is the harm, what is the difficulty to the Government to consider any such process for utilization of sea water which is being utilised in other countries of the world?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, the Ministry of Rural Development has reported that about 150 Reverse Osmosis Plants have been commissioned throughout the country. Out of these 150 plants, 77 are functioning. In Gujarat, out of the 12 plants installed, one plant is now functioning. It is very costly. That is why it becomes very difficult for the State Governments to maintain it.

SHRI G.K. VASAN : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether a similar proposal for utilisation of sea water for regular water supply has been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu. If there is any proposal, what is the response of the Central Government?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Sir, as I have already stated, this power has been delegated to the State Governments in the year 1998. Therefore, it is up to the State Governments. They can plan, execute and maintain the project.

श्री सतीश प्रधान : सभापति जी, जैसा कि मंत्री जी ने बताया कि यह स्टेट गवर्नमेंट का सब्जेक्ट है, यह ठीक है लेकिन आज की परिस्थिति पानी के बारे में बहुत बुरी है। लोगों को पीने के लिए पानी नहीं मिल रहा है। हिन्दुस्तान में सूखे की स्थिति सब जगह निर्मित हुई है। ऐसी परिस्थितियों में हमारे पास जहां कहीं भी पानी है उसका ठीक ढंग से इस्तेमाल करने की आवश्यकता है। सभापति जी, मैं बताना चाहता हूं कि .....(**व्यवधान**).....

श्री सभापति : बताइए मत, इनसे पूछिए।

श्री सतीश प्रधान : सभापति जी, पूछने के लिए ही बता रहा हूं। हमारे यहां वाटर रिसाइक्लिंग करने की तकनीक अस्तित्व में है। ओ.एन.जी.सी. ऐसी तकनीक का इस्तेमाल करती है। पानी रिसाइकल करके, यूज करके पीने के पानी के रूप में काम आता है। सरकार सिर्फ यह नहीं कह सकती कि यह स्टेट गवर्नमेंट का सब्जेक्ट है। सूखे के बाद यह आपका सब्जेक्ट भी हो जाता है, सूखा हमारा सब्जेक्ट भी हो सकता है। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि आप इस विषय में आगे कदम क्यों नहीं बढ़ा रहे हैं ?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Sir, it is a fact that scarcity of water throughout the country has become very acute now. So, the Ministry of Water Resources is providing whatever financial requirement against viable projects the states proposed to us. Certainly, we are providing funds. The Minisrty of Rural Development is also making provisions in different ways. This problem

can be solved only with the cooperation of the State Governments. Otherwise, even if we are determined to solve the water problem in this country, it is difficult. At the same time, the Central Government and the State Governments should cooperate on this particular issue.

Review of rate of interest by RBI

*546. SHRI LALIT SURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India proposes to review the 4 per cent rate of interest on savings bank accounts being paid at present by the commercial banks in view of the fact that inflation rate has recently crossed the 6 per cent level; and

(b) if so, by when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

Review of Rate of Interest by RBI

(a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that except for interest on savings bank accounts other bank deposit rates have been deregulated. These rates are kept under constant review and adjusted according to prevailing macro-economic and market conditions. Recent changes in the savings deposit rate made by the Reserve Bank are given below :

Rate of interest on Savings Deposits

Effective from	Rate (Per cent Per Annum)
November 01,1994	4.5
April 01,2000	4.0
March 01,2003	3.5

The recent cut in the savings deposit rate was effected following the announcement of reduction in the small savings rates by the Government. The present savings deposit rate is slightly higher than the average inflation rate of 3.34 per cent for 2002-2003.

SHRI LALIT SURI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has, in his reply, stated that the interest rates on the savings are going down gradually. There has always been a difference of about two per cent between the rate of

interest and the rate of inflation. But, recently, the interest rate is going down and the inflation rate is going up. In his reply, he has stated that on 1st March, 2003 the rate of interest was 3.5 per cent and the rate of inflation was 3.34 per cent. But there were reports in the newspapers on 12th April, 2003 saying that the inflation rate had gone up to 6.47 per cent. If that is the case, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether the savings can also be deregulated, like the other deposits of the scheduled Banks have been deregulated; and whether there can be any mechanism by which the interest rate can be kept one or two per cent higher than the inflation rate.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, there are two aspects to it. Firstly, let me clarify that, of the three possible Bank deposits, current, savings and fixed, it is only the savings which is now regulated. The other two, current and fixed, are deregulated. They are under the region and authority of the Banks to handle. The savings is controlled by the Reserve Bank of India. Sir, I have personal difficulty in this regard. The hon. Member knows that today the Reserve Bank of Indis is—I think, within twenty minutes time or so from now—going to announce its Credit Policy for the current season. So, it will be completely unwise of me to comment on the Credit Policy.

But I wish to take this opportunity to say just one thing that what you have referred to the six plus per cent, is the point-to-point rate of growth of inflation, not inflation *per se*. We are very mindful of it and so is the Reserve Bank of India. This is the phenomenon for the last two or three weeks, on account of various factors, including the hike in hydrocarbon prices and I am confident that in the coming weeks this will see an easing. But as far as the other aspect of the question is concerned, it is better that we wait for the Reserve Bank's announcement of the Credit Policy.

SHRI LALIT SURI : Sir, my second question is that in the income-tax system, that rate of interest charged on the tax dues is about 12 per cent whereas the rate of interest on refund given is only six per cent. So, there is a parity of six per cent in that. Is there any mechanism, or , way out so that it can be reduced to a reality level, nearest possible, of what they charge and what they give ?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, this does not strictly arise out of this question. But I will still answer this. Yes, there is a differential between what the Income-Tax Department pays as interest on delayed payments etc. and the Income-Tax Department or the departments dealing with indirect taxes charges as interest, should an assessee delay. Part of this policy is a deliberate intent because interest rate itself should be a kind of deterrent in

not paying late. But I take note of what is said that this kind of differential in the present circumstances is really worthy of being examined again. As part of the total tax reforms, we are doing certain things. But I do not want it to be considered as an assurance of any kind. I am just sharing a thought with the hon. Member.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Sir, it is a very important question. do not object for reduction of interest rates in this country, because as the RBI is going to announce the Credit Policy, they should make available funds for the industry at competitive prices so that they can compete in the international market.

What I am trying to ascertain from the Government is this. You have pronounced that eight per cent should be the growth rate of this country, which you are going to achieve. But, our experience is that the FDIs were not forthcoming, as you have anticipated, because of so many reasons, which I do not want to dwell at this stage.

Sir, unless you mop up the savings in this country to a level of 33 to 35 per cent to achieve eight per cent growth rate, how are you going to augment the public sector investment, which has got a strong complimentality with the private sector investment ? Unless you do that, you cannot touch the growth rate of eight per cent. How is the Government going to raise the resources in this country ?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I think, the observation made by the hon. Member is perfectly valid that the total domestic savings rate should go up to a certain percentage. I won't go into the arithmetic of what it should be, but certainly it should be more than the current 34 plus per cent that we have. We need to raise the current domestic savings rate, without any doubt, if we are to have the resources. This is a combination of many things that have to be done and not just the interest rates but also the encouragement through the taxation regime for savings etc. As it is, India and the citizens of India, perhaps, are world's naturally, socially the greatest savers and we have to persuade the citizens to move away from non-productive savings to productive savings. This is a long-term thing. It cannot be done overnight. But, I agree with you that this is one of the objectives of the Government.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on the week-end, ending April 12, the rate of inflation went up to 6.47 per cent and the hon. Minister is not ready to reply because of the Credit Policy being announced by the RBI and the interest rates, etc. But I wonder whether the Hon. Minister is aware that last year, exactly at this time, the rate of inflation was 1.37 per cent. There is

a steep rise in this. Is the Minister concerned about that ? And, if so, what steps he proposes to take to bring down the inflation ?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I am aware of what it was last year.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : I am very happy to hear that.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : It is not that I remain unaware of what happens. I am being paid salary to do the best I can. Of course, I am concerned. I am concerned that the rate of growth of inflation is crossing a certain limit. But the conditions that obtain this year are not the same as obtained last year. Among the factors that have contributed to this 6 per cent plus rate of growth for the last two or three weeks are of course the Gulf War, the accumulated effect of the drought and also certain increased higher price realisation in the manufacturing sector. The third one, I find is, healthy. I would encourage that the manufacturing sector remains healthy. The first two, the Gulf War and the drought, of course, have to be attend to. We should soon be witnessing a correction. We are closely monitoring the situation along with the Reserve Bank of India.

Impact of Iraq war on economy

*547. SHRI RAJ KUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to unstarred question No. 2070 given in the Rajya Sabha on 11th March, 2003 and state :

(a) the achievements made during 2001-02 and 2002-03 with regard to higher private initiative and greater integration with the world economy, reducing the level of poverty and facilitating greater investment;

(b) the targets set out for 2003-2004 in these sectors;

(c) whether the war in Iraq will affect the targets set out;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to reduce the adverse impact of the war in Iraq ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (e) A statement is placed on the table of the House.

Statement

Impact of Iraq war on economy

(a) As per available information share of the private sector in the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased from 74.1 per cent in 1993-94 to 76.0 per cent in 2001-02. During the same period, the share of private sector

investment in total investment increased from 61.2 per cent to 71.8 per cent. The share of total exports of goods and services in GDP, which is a measure of integration with the world economy, increased from 7.1 per cent in 1990-91 to 13.3 per cent in 2001-02. There has also been significant increase in Foreign Investment that increased from US $ 103 million in 1990-91 to US $ 59.25 million in 2001-02. The poverty ratio declined by nearly 10 percentage point in the five year period following 1993-94 to reach 26.1 per cent in 1999-2000.

(b) The growth rates are not set on an annual basis. The Tenth Plan (2002—07) has envisaged the share of private investment in total investment at 70 per cent and the share of exports and imports in GDP at 14.24 per cent and 17.71 per cent respectively. It has set a target of reduction of poverty by 5 percentage points by 2007. The *panch* priorities of the Union Budget 2003-04, which include, *inter alia*, poverty eradication, infrastructure development and accelerating reform process, are expected to create a conducive environment for accelerating private investment ensuring greater integration with world economy and consequently result in the reduction of poverty.

(c) to (e) The Government constantly reviews the situation arising out of the Iraq War and appropriate steps are taken in accordance with national interests and policy objectives. Measures were taken to insulate the economy from volatility in international crude oil prices. In the post-war scenario, it is our expectation Iraq will offer greater opportunities for trade and commerce with that country.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, with due defence, I would like to make a mention that the heading of this question has perhaps been inaccurately styled as Iraq War because the content of the question has only tangential reference to the Iraq War.

श्री राजकुमार धूत : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने मेरे एक सवाल का जवाब तो दे ही दिया कि मुद्रास्फीति 5 से 6 परसेंट तक हो गई है और उसके कारण भी उन्होंने बताए कि अकाल पड़ा हुआ है, खाड़ी युद्ध हुआ है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि जो खर्चे हैं स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के और सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के, वे बार-बार ज्यादा हो रहे हैं, जिसमें एक सेलरी सिस्टम भी है वह भी बार-बार बढ़ रहा है और जिसके कारण राज्यों पर भी असर पड़ रहा है। इसके कारण भी मुद्रास्फीति ज्यादा बढ़ने जा रही है, तो इस संबंध में क्या आप कोई ठोस कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं ?

श्री जसवंत सिंह : माननीय सभापति महोदय, प्रश्न का मूल यह है कि खर्चा कम होना चाहिए। मैं मानता हूं कि खर्चा कम होना चाहिए, राज्यों का भी कम होना चाहिए और केन्द्र का भी कम होना चाहिए और इसके लिए वित्त-मंत्रालय में हम निरंतर प्रयत्न करते हैं। इसीलिए वित्त मंत्रालय

और वित्त मंत्री सबके लिए यह सबसे अनपापुलर चीज होती है। इसमें मैं आपको बता दूं कि वित्त मंत्रालय ने अभी हाल में यह जो कैश मैनेजमेंट सिस्टम लागू किया है, जैसा पिछली बार मैंने जिक्र किया, कि इतने मंत्रालयों को हम बजट का एलोकेशन इतना दे रहे हैं। हम सभी प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं कि खर्चा कम हो।

श्री राजकुमार धूत : सभापति जी, मेरा दूसरा सप्लीमेंटरी यह है कि सरकार का अनुमान सही है कि युद्ध के बाद हमें अधिक अवसर प्राप्त होंगे। तो क्या सरकार ने युद्ध के बाद इराक के आर्थिक विकास के लिए अमरीका के साथ साझेदारी की संभावना पर विचार किया है, विशेषता ऑयल क्षेत्र में, जिसमें उत्पादन में हिस्सा मिल सके और इंजीनियरिंग के क्षेत्र में, जिसके कारण अधिक ठेके मिल सकें, हमारे लोगों को वहां पर काम मिल सके ? अगर हां, तो उसमें कौन-से क्षेत्र हैं ? और, अगर नहीं, तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह प्रार्थना करूँगा कि वे इसके ऊपर जरूर ध्यान दें ताकि हमारी आर्थिक स्थिति में और ज्यादा फॉरेन एक्सचेंज अर्न हो सके।

श्री सभापति : माननीय मंत्री महोदय,, प्रार्थना पर विचार करें।

श्री जसवंत सिंह : सभापति जी, यह प्रश्न तो अपने आप में मूलत: विदेश मंत्रालय से हो तो ज्यादा उचित रहेगा।

Installation of display panels at IGI airport

*548. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY : ††
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indira Gandhi International Airport has acquired six 42-inch plasma display panels, along with 15 colour TVs to give a face-lift to the Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any plan to extend the same to other airports in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Installation of Display Panels at IGI Airport

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Four 42" Plasma Display Panels (for display of flight related information) and 12 Colour TVs (for passenger entertainment) have been procured by IGI Airport on 'no cost to Airports Authority of India (AAI)' basis *i.e.* on sponsorship basis under the ongoing 'Airport Improvement Initiatives' programme.

†† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Rama Muni Reddy Sirigireddy.

(c) and (d) Similar attempts for providing Plasma display panels and Colour TVs on sponsorship basis besides procurement by AAI through tender system are being made at other major airports.

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY : Sir, the Hon. Minister says that the AAI has not incurred any expenditure on the installation of this equipment at the IGI Airport. I Would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether it is true that the AAI has entered into an agreement with a private company for installation, maintenance, etc., of this equipment for a period of three years. If so, what are the details of this agreement entered into between the AAI and the private company that has installed Plasma Display Panels at the IGI Airport ?

I would also like to know whether the private company that has installed this equipment is paying any royalty to the AAI because the IGI Airport is giving publicity to their brand and product. If so, what are the details of the royalty or other revenue which they are getting through this arrangement ?

श्री सैयद शाहनवाज हुसैन : सभापति जी, इंदिरा गांधी इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर जो 42" प्लाज़्म टी.वी. है, वह डिस्प्ले के लिए हमने लगाया है। हमने कई कम्पनियों को लिखा था, जिनमें से एक कम्पनी ने रिस्पांड किया और उन्होंने अपना प्लाज़्म टी.वी. हमें दिया, जिस पर हमारा कोई खर्चा नहीं आया और उसकी मेंटेनैंस भी वही करेंगे। अगर कोई और कम्पनी इस तरह से और एयरपोर्ट्स पर भी इस तरह का कोई प्लाज़्म टी.वी. देने को तैयार होगी तो उनको पब्लिसिटी मिलेगी और आईजीआईए का खर्चा भी नहीं होगा।

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether it is true that as a part of facelift, the Indian Airlines and Air India have engaged a private TV channel to design uniforms for female crew members and the female ground staff. If so, the details thereof may be given. Sir, the Hon. minister has stated, in his reply, that he is going to extend this facility to all the major airports. May I know from him whether the Hyderabad Airport is there in the priority or not ? Is there any time-bound programme ? . . . (**व्यवधान**). . .

श्री सैयद शाहनवाज हुसैन : सभापति जी,जहां तक पोशाक का मामला है, मूल प्रश्न तो एयरपोर्ट पर प्लाज़्म टी.वी. लगाने के बारे में था, पोशाक का मामला तो वह अलग से कह सकते हैं और पोशाक में हम सुधार कर ही रहे हैं।

हैदराबाद के बारे में मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि जो काम हम दिल्ली में करते हैं, हैदराबाद का खास तौर से विशेष ध्यान रखते हैं और आगे भी रखेंगे।

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Sir, when we can get the free of cost these TVs and other plasma display panels, I can't understand why the Minister has replied that, through tender system, TVs and other things are being made available at major airports. If we can get it at one airport, I am sure, we can get it at every airport. So can I get an assurance from the hon. Minister that all over the country, we will have plenty of these TVs and other plasma display panels for the convenience of passengers, but without any cost ?

श्री सैयद शाहनवाज हुसैन : सभापति जी, जहां-कहीं पर अगर कोई स्पॉन्सर बिना पैसे के इस तरह का प्लाज्म टी.वी. देने को तैयार होगा, वहाँ हम लेंगे और जहां इस पर इस तरह से किसी के जरिए नहीं मिलेगा वहां हम खुद प्लाज्म टी.वी. हर एयरपोर्ट पर इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर लगाएंगे।

Drying up of rivers due to inter-linking

*549 : SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the apprehension express by the Director-General World Wide Fund (WWF) as reported in the media to the effect that the proposed inter-linking of the country's rivers is likely to result in drying up of the rivers and turning into beds of sand; and

(b) if so, what precautions are being taken to prevent such environmental catastrophe and whether the Task Force constituted to study the proposed inter-linking of rivers has due representation of such international environmental organisations as WWF?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The feasibility studies being carried out by NWDA cover studies pertaining to environmental & ecological surveys. In these studies, a minimum lean season flow of 10% of the total flows at diversion structure after meeting downstream requirement is being provided to maintain the environmental and ecological needs of the river regime and the downstream areas. Shri R. K. Pachauri, Director General, Tata Energy Research Institute, New Delhi, an Expert on environmental aspects has been inducted as Member of the Task Force on Inter-linking of Rivers.

श्री कलराज मिश्र : माननीय सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि एक वर्ल्ड वाइल्ड फंड नामक संस्था है, जिसने नदियों को जोड़ने के परिणामस्वरूप होने वाले दुष्परिणामों से संबंधित कोई रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की थी, उसे क्या आपने देखा है ? अगर उसको देखा है तो समाधानकारक उसके मूल बिन्दु क्या हैं ?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Sir, as I have stated earlier in my main reply, every aspect of this mega project is being studied by the Task Force. Shri R. K. Pachauri also, who is one of the experts in environmental field, is there in the tasks force to study it. Moreover, as far as the reports that has been published and whether I have seen it or not yes, I have seen it, and certainly, we are going into the details of this report.

श्री कलराज मिश्र : मान्यवर, मैंने उसके मूल बिंदु के बारे में जानना चाहा था, लेकिन मंत्री जी ने उसको बताया नहीं और बताया कि उस संबंध में कुछ निर्णय उन्होंने लिए हैं।

दूसरे प्रश्न के रूप में मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि इसके पहले डा० के० एल० राव की अध्यक्षता में प्रमुख नदियों को जोड़ने से संबंधित कार्य-योजना पर विचार करने के लिए एक कमेटी बनाई गई थी और उसके आधार पर विभिन्न विश्वविद्यालयों और संस्थाओं के द्वारा उसका अध्ययन किया गया था और अध्ययन करने के पश्चात जो उसके निष्कर्ष आए थे, उनमें यह था कि जो वाइल्ड लाइफ है और सी ऐनिमल्स हैं, उन पर उसका बड़ा दुष्प्रभाव पड़ेगा। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इन अध्ययन समितियों के जो निष्कर्ष हैं उनको देखकर, उनके अनुरूप क्या कार्य-योजना बनाई गई है ताकि उन पर उस तरह का दुष्प्रभाव न पड़ने पाए ?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Sir, I have stated that the Task Force, which has been going into the details of all these aspects -- and many experts are there -- will, certainly, go into all the aspects of this problem. And, the Report will come up before the Government. After that, if possible, we can have a discussion here also.

श्री संजय निरुपम : सर, आज सुबह से नदियों को जोड़ने के बारे में चर्चा हो रही है। एक चर्चा जो महाराष्ट्र में बड़ी गंभीरतापूर्वक आकार ले रही है, वह है कि महाराष्ट्र की गोदावरी नदी का पानी गुजरात में भेजे जाने की शायद तैयारी चल रही है, केन्द्र सरकार के पास इस तरह का प्रस्ताव है और इस प्रस्ताव के विरोध में महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट ने शायद अपना कुछ स्टेंड लिया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से विरोध प्रदर्शित करते हुए कोई पत्र आया है ? महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट की क्या भूमिका है ?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Sir, I have no information regarding this aspect.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : Sir, vast resources are needed for this laudable project. In fact, the hon. Minister, last time, was not even sure of the figures. But finally, he corrected himself and said that Rs. 1,56,000 crores would be needed...

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : No it is Rs. 5,60,000 crores.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : All right, it is a fact that more resources are needed and, may be, this country finds the resources. But it is not only world wide fund but many environmentalists also do not feel sure that this is going to yield advantages to this country. Through you, Sir, I want to ask the hon. Minister whether he will consider to organise a national debate—that must be a real national debate—not only in the two Houses of Parliament but also throughout the nation. Would the hon. Minister give an assurance that only after a vigorous national debate that such a project would be taken up for implementation?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : It is a suggestion for consideration.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN : Sir, this very ambitious project of inter-linking rivers is occupying the best of the brains in the country. Sir, there are some rivers which are international in nature. They are flowing from China, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan. Has the Government taken any initiative to start dialogues with the neighbouring countries through which these international rivers flow and to ascertain their views on this project?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Sir, so far as interlinking of rivers, namely, Brahmaputra and Ganga is concerned, certainly, we will take into confidence the Governments of Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. But, before having discussions with these neighbouring countries, we are going into the details of the project. Moreover, we are trying to convince amongst ourselves, inside the country, whether it is feasible and whether people want it. And, if there is a consensus, international ramifications of the project will be considered and we will, certainly, have consultations with these countries.

SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU : Sir, environment being one of the important aspects, I would like to know whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests has given a list of prerecuisites before implementing the views of the task Force on inter-linking of rivers. In fact I would like to know whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests has given a list of prerequisites.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Sir, the Ministry of Environment and Forests are very much a part of this Task Force. They are being consulted and certainly, whatever suggestions come from them.

SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU : Have they submitted any prerequisites?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : We are having consultations with different Ministry .....

SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU : Sir, it has been published in yesterday's Hindu that certain prerequisites have been submitted by the Environment and Forest Ministry. This may, kindly, be taken note of.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Yes, I will.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Studies on linking of rivers

*550. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleaded to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a former Water Resources Minister, Shri K. L. Rao had got the proposal of linking of Ganga River with Southern rivers examined;

(b) if so, the details and conclusions of study undertaken at that time; and

(c) the reasons for abandoning that scheme at that time?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI) : (a) The then Central Water and Power Commission prepared a note on the National Water Grid in 1972 and suggested three possible alignments for the Ganga-Cauvery links. Dr. K. L. Rao further studied the note of the Central Water and Power Commission and advocated one of the alignments for the Ganga-Cauvery link along with a few other links including the Ganga-Brahmaputra link.

(b) The Ganga-Cauvery link essentially envisaged withdrawal of 1680 cumec of the flood flows of the Ganga near Patna for about 150 days in a year and pumping about 1400 cumec of this water over a head of 549 metres for transfer to the Peninsular region and utilising the remaining 280 cumec in Ganga basin itself. The proposal envisaged utilisation of 2.59 Million hectare metre of Ganga water to bring under irrigation an additional area of 4 Million hectare.

(c) The Ganga-Cauvery link as proposed by Dr. K. L. Rao was examined by Central Water Commission and found to be grossly under estimated. Besides

the proposal was also devoid of flood control benefit and required large block of power for lifting water. The proposal was, therefore, given up.

Inspection of companies

*551. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI :
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of companies inspected by Government under section 209(a) of the Companies Act, 1956, during the last two years;

(b) how many companies were actually booked for violations mismanagement, delay in payment of dividend, non payment of deposits during that period; and

(c) whether prosecution has been launched against all such companies and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) 394 companies have been inspected in the last two financial years, ending on 31-3-2003.

(b) The details are as under:

	Violations	Mismanagement	Delay in payment of dividend	Non-payment of deposits.
Number of cases	In almost all Cases of Inspection	12	6	34

(c) Prosecutions have been ordered for the violations established.

Restructuring of UTI schemes

*552. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Unit Trust of India propose to restructure its 47 schemes through intra-scheme merger ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for aggressive marketing of UTI schemes in order to reduce redemption pressure on the Trust?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) As at present, there is no proposal for intra-scheme merger in respect of schemes with UTI-I which manages US-64, Assured Return Schemes and SUS-99.

However, UTI-II has decided in March 2003 to merge five existing Master Equity Plans, i.e. MEP 93, MIP 94, MEP 95, MEP 96 and MEP 97 into a single scheme named as UTI-Master Equity Plan Unit Scheme (UTI-MEPUS).

(c) Assets under management of the UTI-II have fallen from Rs. 14,476 crores (as on 28th February, 2003) to Rs. 13,516 crores (as on 31st March, 2003) as per information provided by AMFI. UTI Mutual Fund is undertaking all possible measures for marketing of its schemes.

In UTI-I, US-64 holders have been given an option of exchanging their US-64 certificates for a bond to be issued by it and guranteed by the Government. These bonds will carry 6.75% p.a. tax free interest, will be freely tradable and will be redeemable after five years. Investing public have accepted these bonds in an overwhelming majority.

Dividends earned by the scheme will be passed on to the certificate holders tax free and the transactions of US-64 will be exempt from capital gains tax.

Merger of Kamraj Rural Bank with Jammu Rural Bank

*553. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has recently issued orders asking the merger of Kamraj Rural Bank with Jammu Rural Bank;

(b) if so, whether Jammu Rural Bank Employees have threatened strike and agitation against this order as reported in media; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal for merger of Kamraz Rural Bank (KRB) with Jammu Rural Bank (JRB). However, Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd., (J & K Bank Ltd.), the Sponsor Bank of KRB and JRB has reported that the 16 migrant officers of KRB were proposed to be deputed to JRB under the Scheme for Inter-

bank Redeployment of staff in Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) evolved by National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) pursuant to recommendations of the Working Group on Manpower Planning in RRBs. NABARD has reported that the JRB has not agreed to the proposed deputation on account of resultant adverse impact on its financial position. The Officers' Association of JRB had also represented against the proposed deputation of migrant officers of KRB. J & K Bank Ltd., has subsequently decided that JRB will not be forced to absorb the officers of KRB on deputation.

Pipeline Project of GAIL

*554. SHRI AMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the rates submitted by each company for laying of 670 Km. B. J. pipeline and the names of the companies whose rates were approved by the Gas Authority of India Limited;

(b) what are the details of orders placed with each company;

(c) whether it is a fact that the tender of one company was rejected at the trial stage and if so, on what ground it was again approved; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that rules were changed to suit the selected company which has no previous experience of this nature?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) had invited tenders for (1) procurement of line pipe and (2) laying of pipeline, for Hazira-Bijapur-Jagadishpur (HBJ) upgradation project. Tender for laying of pipeline has not been finalised and is under evaluation.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Time-schedule of Flights

*555. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for frequent changes in the time-schedule of the flights in the eastern region (including north-east) during the last three months when weather happened to be fair;

(b) the number of flights delayed or cancelled between Kolkata and Agartala, Agartala and Guwahati and Guwahati and Kolkata;

(c) what were the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to avoid such situation and to keep passengers free from such troubles; and

(e) the plans to improve air-journey in the NER?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) Indian Airlines operates two major shedules every year for the summer and winter seasons, in which changes are made keeping in view the operational requirements to meet contingencies. Some changes, in the time schedule of flights in the Eastern Region were, however made during the last three months due to runway works at Agartala air field, adjustments required after the introduction of ATR flights and withdrawal of one aircraft to meet other operational requirements.

(b) and (c) The number of flights cancelled or delayed between Kolkata-Agartala, Guwahati-Agartala and Guwahati-Kolkata during the last three months and those attributable to inclement weather was as under:

sectors	number of take offs	Cancellations	Delays	Cancellations and delays due to inclement of weather
Kolkata-Agartala-Kolkata	366	2	158	137
Guwahati-Agartala-Guwahati	170	2	132	108
Guwahati-Kolkata-Guwahati	182	2	66	32

(d) Indian Airlines makes all efforts to improve its on time performance. All delays are investigated to pinpoint the cause and remedial action is taken. At the regional level a meeting between the representatives of Operating Departments is held every day to review the operations of the previous 24 hours with a view to identify areas where delays could have been eliminated or the extent of delays reduced.

Engineering delays are dealt with a special emphasis. At the Base Stations, the delay is analysed to identify the cause and nature of a snag. In case a snag is frequent special maintenance action is immediatly initiated to ensure that the

snag does not persist. At the corporate level, the punctuality of services is closely monitored on a daily basis.

In each Region, a meeting to evaluate the reliability of systems for the aircraft based in that Region is held periodically. In this meeting the Defect rate of various aircraft systems is studied and analysed. In the case of an increase either the Time Between Overhaul is reduced or modifications are carried out in consultation with the manufacturer and the DGCA.

(e) Indian Airlines has provided new airlinks, increased frequency and added new stations in the North-East as under :

	New Airlinks	Date of Introduction
1.	Silchar/Agartala/Silchar	15-04-2003
2.	Guwahati/Aizawl/Guwahati	05-04-2003
3.	Kolkata/Shillong/Kolkata	07-04-2003
4.	Dimapur/Guwahati/Dimapur	02-01-2003
5.	Patna/Bagdogra	25-04-2002
6.	Patna/Guwahati	25-04-2002
7.	Guwahati/Lilabari	09-10-2002
8.	Kolkata/Gaya	18-12-2002
	Increase in frequency	Frequency
1.	Kolkata/Agartala/Kolkata	From 13 to 19
2.	Kolkata/Aizawl/Kolkata	From 03 to 06
3.	Kolkata/ Silchar/ Kolkata	From 06 to 10
4.	Silchar/Guwahati/Silchar	From 02 to 04
5.	Kolkata/Guwahati/Kolkata	From 07 to 14
6.	Guwahati/Lilabari/Guwahati	From 02 to 03
7.	Guwahati/ Agartala/Guwahati	From 03 to 07
8.	Kolkata/ Dimapur/Kolkata	From 04 to 07

New stations

Shillong

Conservation of water reserves

*556. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister for WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated strategies to conserve water reserves in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Governments and UTs have also been asked to conserve water reserves in their respective States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Environment Forests launched a scheme on Conservation and Management of Water Reserves viz. Wetlands, Mangroves and Coral Reefs during 1987. The scheme is continuing in Tenth Five year Plan. The Ministry of Environment and Forests have identified 24 wetland areas in the country for conservation and management till date. The list of such areas is given in the enclosed statement. *(See* below) Objectives of the scheme cover identification of priority areas for conservation and management and prepare policy guidelines for implementation of management action plans for these identified areas. Activities under these action plans include survey and demarcation, protection, forestation, natural regeneration, restoration, catchment area treatment, pollution control, weed control, wild life conservation, fisheries development, environmental education etc.

In addition, for conservation of water resources in the country, a large number of major and medium reservoirs providing 177 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) of storage capacity have been created. Another 207.77 BCM of storage is likely to be created through ongoing and proposed projects.

(c) and (d) Management Action Plans for the identified wetlands, mangroves and coral reefs are implemented by the respective State Governments/ Union territories. To monitor progress of implementation of these Management Action Plans, State level Steering Committees have been constituted in all the concerned States.

The National Water policy—2002, adopted by the National Water Resources Council, also emphasizes on conservation of water. The policy provides that efficiency of utilisation in all the diverse uses of water should be optimised and an awareness of water as a scarce resource should be fostered. The policy further states that the resources should be conserved and the availability augmented by maximising retention eliminating pollution and minimising losses. The National Water Policy has been sent to all the State Governments/Union Territories for implementation. The policy also directs that each State shall formulate its own State Water Policy backed with an operational

Action Plan in a time bound manner say in two years to achieve the desired objectives of the Policy.

STATEMENT

List of wetlands

Sl. No.	Name of Wetlands	State/UT	University identified for collaboration
1.	Wullar	J & K	J & K University
2.	Tso Morari	J & K	J & K University
3.	Tisgul Tso	J & K	J & K University
4.	Renuka	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal University, Shimla
5.	Pong Dam	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal University, Shimla
6.	Chandratal	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal University, Shimla
7.	Harike	Punjab	Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana
8.	Ropar	Punjab	Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana
9.	Kanjli	Punjab	Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana
10.	Chilka	Orissa	Utkal University
11.	Kabar	Bihar	Bhagalpur University
12.	Sambhar	Rajasthan	Jodhpur University & CAZRI
13.	Kolleru	Andhra Pradesh	Osmania University
14.	Loktak	Manipur	Manipur University
15.	Ashtamudi	Kerala	Kerala University
16.	Sasthamkotta	Kerala	Kerala University
17.	Ujni	Maharashtra	Pune University
18.	Nalsarover	Gujarat	Gujarat University
19.	Deepar Beel	Assam	Guwahati University
20.	Rudrasagar	Tripura	Tripura University
21.	Hokersar	J & K	—
22.	Mansar-Surinsar	J & K	—
23.	Pangong Tsar	J & K (Ladakh)	—
24.	East Calcutta	West Bengal	—

Coopeative Banks without licence

*557. SHRI RAJIV SHUKLA :

DR. ABRAR AHMED :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Co-operative Banks operating in the country without requisite licence from Reserve Bank of India as on date;

(b) whether the matter of such unauthorized banks has been taken with concerned State Governments: and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), at present there are 17 State Co-operative Banks (SCBs), 296 District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) and 112 Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) are operating in the country without licence from Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Since Co-operative Banks were brought under the ambit of Banking regulation Act, 1949 from 1st March, 1966, these Banks are permitted to carry on banking business till a decision is taken on their licence applications by RBI. In respect of the Banks which are likely to comply with the licence norms in the near future, RBI has considered it advisable to give time to do the needful. Apart from these, there are 58 Co-operative Societies (54 in Kerala, 1 in Assam and 3 in Manipur) carrying on banking business without licence from RBI, on the basis of registration given by Registrar of Co-operative Societies (RCS) of the respective States. In addition, there are entitites, one in Orissa and the other one in Uttar Pradesh, carrying on banking business unauthorisedly.

RBI has taken up the cases of unlicensed banks with the respective State Governments. Some unlicensed Urban Co-operative Banks in Kerala have filed writ petition in the High Court of Kerala to quash the circular issued by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies of Kerala on 23rd January, 2003 to all Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies in the Districts and registered unlicensed Co-operative Urban banks to stop any violation of Banking regulation Act and to change their constitution to Urban Co-operative Societies by making necessary changes in their by-laws within two months. The Court issued an interim direction on 24th March, 2003 restraining the State of Kerala from taking any coercive steps for non-compliance of the circular dated 23rd January, 2003.

Special Financial Aid to Uttaranchal

†*558 : SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial aid provided to Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh during the last year and the works on which said amount was spent by both States, separately; and

(b) whether Government are considering to provide special financial aid to newly created State, Uttaranchal and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) In 2002-03, Central Assistance of Rs. 1604.81 crores was provided to Uttaranchal. For the same period, Rs. 1295.27 crores was provided to Himachal Pradesh. Besides, share in Central Taxes amounting to Rs. 374.11 crores was released to Uttaranchal and Rs. 347.63 crores to Himachal Pradesh.

States are expected to spend funds for the allocated purpose. State Governments are responsible to the State Legislature for proper utilization of funds through the State Audit Report prepared by the C&AG of India under Article 151(2) of the Constitution of India. However, if there is any shortfall in Plan expenditure as against Approved/Revised Plan outlay, a proportionate cut is made from the Central assistance released to the State.

(b) The Annual Plan of Uttaranchal for 2003-04 is yet to be finalized. The issue of providing any special financial aid to Uttaranchal may only arise thereafter.

Science City in Punjab

*559. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the present status of Science City in Punjab;

(b) by when the project is likely to be completed; and

(c) the funds released so far and spent on the project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) The civil construction work for Phase-I buildings (Science Voyage Hall, Space Theatre, Entrance Gate complex, Parking Area, Roads, Central and Entrance Plazas) is in progress. Construction work worth Rs. 25 crores has been completed against the contracted value of Rs. 31 crores.

A large Film Projection System and Flight Simulator have been procured at a total cost of Rs. 9.5 crores.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Planning and design for the Phase-I exhibit galleries is in progress. Conceptual plan for Phase-II buildings is under preparation.

(b) According to the Pushpa Gujaral Science City Society the Project can be completed by March 31, 2005 subject to provision of adequate funding, as per the approved Project outlay.

(c) The Government of India have released Rs. 35.5 crores upto 31st March 2003. The same has been utilized by the Society.

Face-Lift to IGI Airport, Delhi

*560. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide a face-lift to the Indira Gandhi International Airport to improve its aesthetics and raise the service standards; and

(b) if so, the details thereof *inter alia* stating the security management, addition of innovative facilities, the estimated cost and the nodal agency for the upkeep of the Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of airport improvment initiatives are given in the enclosed statement (*see* below). Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has been inducted at IGI Airport for security function and state-of-the-art X-ray screening machines, Door Frame Metal Detectors and Hand-held Metal Detectors have been provided at the terminal to strengthen security. An amount of Rs. 836 lakhs approximately has been incurred for improvement initiative as capital costs. Airport Director, Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi is the nodal officer for the upkeep of the airport.

Statement

Details of Airport Improvement Initiatives (Launched w.e.f. 15th July 2002)

Actions Completed

- Enhancement in the illumination level inside and city side of Terminal-1B.
- Domestic Arrival, Transit Lounge of International Terminal and International Apron.
- Tout Menace combated through joint efforts of AAI & Police at very senior level.

— On-the-job training on house keeping to 36 personnel and customer service to 53 employees imparted.

— Training on behavioral aspects imparted jointly organised by AAI and GOI Tourism to the first batch of Airport Officials (60 personnel of Customs & Immigration).

— State-of-the-art doorframe metal detectors (23 Nos.) provided at International & Domestic terminals.

— Improved seats at Transit area, Security hold area and Arrival Hall of Terminal-II.

— Standardised translite boards provided to concessionaries at Terminal-II.

— Inadmissible Passenger Room to be renovated/refurbished.

— Round-the-clock Help Desk in Departure Hall provided to faciliate needy passengers, especially for filling up Immigration forms.

— Centralised air-conditioning systems improved at International Terminal to maintain uniform and comfortable temperature.

— New Suggestion/Complaint Boxes of Immigration Department provided.

— Automatic Currency Change Dispenser provided at Arrival Hall of International terminal.

— New Taxi parking across the road commissioned at International Terminal area.

— Sixteen wells operationalised for Water harvesting (recoupment of average 1.25 lakhs litres of water per well achieved).

— Intensified grass/bush cutting and grading/leveling of operational area taken up.

— Sixteen newly designed security booths to counter Parliament type militant attack commissioned at Terminal-I and II area.

— VIP lounge to be refurbished at Terminal-1B.

— Substantial greening and tree planting in and around the Domestic and International terminals undertaken.

— Air-conditioning and replacement of panels of all the aerobridges (nine) at Terminal-II undertaken.

— Art Gallery at Terminal-II.

— Provision of overhead signages (location indicators) with temperature display on the approach road to Terminals I & II.

— Providing quality coaches for Airport Transfer and their synchronization with flights timings.

— New System of seamless transfer of transit passengers through airside implemented.

— New 'see through' room for AFRRO in Departure wing of Terminal-II provided for effective monitoring of Departure Immigration functions.

— Immigration counters refurbished and given new look.

— A large aquarium provided in transit area of Terminal-II.

— Book stall-cum-Travelers Requisites shop commissioned at the Departure Chack-in-area.

— 17 translites depicting India's Tourism potential/culture/heritage installed at Terminal-II.

— Four Moving Display Boards in lieu of scattered, information displays provided.

— Restructured user-friendly information on IGI Airport incorporated in AAI's website www. airportsindia. org. in.

— Replaced old entertainment "TVs and CCTV monitors with plasma TVs/ Information" monitors.

Action on hand (in progress)

— Coffee bar outside Domestic Arrival.

— Transfer Pax. Lounge with shower and snoozers in Terminal-II for International transit passengers.

— ATM at Terminal-1B.

— Internet Kiosk outside Domestic Arrival Hall.

— Renovation of ITDC/DTTDC counters.

— Replacement of hand-painted city side signages with standardized reflective type signages.

— Shifting of departure courier operations to Express Cargo Terminal.

— Two new shops of Jewellery and Books and Music and in transit area.

— Internet kiosk in visitors area and transit area.
— Refurbishing and realigning the traffic flow system at Terminal-1B.
— Refurbishment of Retiring rooms.
— Introduction of paid Porterage Service and Meet and Greet Service.
— New garden with large mural on the city side of the Terminal-II.
— Refurbishment of Ceremonial Lounge at Terminal-II.
— Replacement of False Ceiling at Terminal-II.
— Provision of state-of-the-art Telecom Centre.
— Replacement of existing non-standard coffee vending and other kiosks with well designed kiosks.
— Introduction of premium class Radio Taxies and Cool Cabs at Terminal-I & II.
— Linking ATC Flight timings with AAI's website to disseminate current information.
— Refurbishment of closed area (vacated by IA) at Terminal-1B.
— New Railway Reservation Counter at Domestic Arrival.
— Improvements on the approach road to Terminal-I (in collaboration with NCT, Delhi).
— Implementation of CUTE (Common User Terminal Equipment) at Terminal-II.
— Refurbishment of Baggage Conveyor Systems in Arrival Hall & provision of belts with additional length.
— News Headlines.
— Health Meter.
— Setting up of world class fast food outlets.
— Improvement in the flooring of Terminal-I Arrival and replacement of carpets in the security hold area at Terminal-II.
— Induction of additional passenger baggage trolleys.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Review of Civil Aviation Treaty with Malaysia

4022. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL

AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are reviewing their decisions pending under Civil Aviation bilateral treaty with Malaysian Government keeping in view the serious assault incidents against Indian IT Professionals in Kualalumpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Kualalumpur's reaction to India's protest in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) In consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs, it has been decided to keep in abeyance the additional traffic rights granted to the designated airlines of Malaysia during the last round of bilateral air services talks between India and Malaysia held on 22-23 January, 2003 for the time being in view of the incidents of assault against the I.T. Professionals in Kualalumpur. Malaysian Airlines has not, so far, filed any plan to utilise the additional traffic rights.

Targeted passenger traffic

4023. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage growth of passenger traffic in IA during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the percentage growth of passenger traffic in AI during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the civil aviation sector set 5 per cent growth target for 2002-2003;

(d) if so, whether the target has been achieved; and

(e) if not, the reasons for not achieving the target, apart from 9/11 attack?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) The growth in passenger traffic of Indian Airlines (including Alliance Air) and Air India during the last three years are as under :—

Year	Indian Airlines	Air India
	(Growth percentage)	
2000-2001	-1.4	3.1
2001-2002	-8.3	-5.2
2002-2003	0.6 (Provisional)	-6.2

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.